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(54) **INTERFACE FOR PROCESSING OF AN  
ALTERNATE SYMBOL IN A COMPUTER  
DEVICE**

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Described herein is a computer-implemented system and  
method for processing one or more alternate symbols associ-  
ated or linked to a base symbol. A base symbol is a symbol to  
which at least one alternate symbol is linked. A base symbol  
commonly appears on a key of a keyboard or a display of a  
keyboard, or is a handwritten symbol recognized by hand-  
writing entry software. Examples of alternate symbols are  
accented characters and punctuation marks that do not appear  
on a keyboard or are not commonly recognized by a hand-  
writing entry program, and short symbol sequences. An  
example of a common short symbol sequence is an emoticon  
used in e-mail messages to convey tone or feelings. An  
example of a computer device that may embody the system or  
method is a hand-held computing device.

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